

# So grateful to Oscar's helpers

By EMILY BAKER

LAUREN Cheney has many reasons to celebrate her son Oscar's first birthday.

Oscar survived five surgeries in utero after developing a one in 15,000 births condition called hydrops fetalis, which caused a large amount of fluid to build up around his lungs.

Oscar's birthday also coincided with the opening of Mrs Cheney's Churchlands business, the Little Love Club café and play centre, aimed at giving back to the people who helped Oscar survive.

"I am so thankful to the staff at King Edward Memorial Hospital (KEMH) for all they did to save

Oscar," Mrs Cheney said.

"He was diagnosed with hydrops when I was 26 weeks pregnant and had five surgeries in utero over nine weeks - it was terrifying, as I didn't know if he would survive."

Little Love Club is an interactive play studio that provides mums and carers of children aged younger than five with play-based educational classes, a casual drop-in play centre, coffee, treats and hand-crafted giftware.

A portion of their profits will go directly to the Women and Infants Research Foundation (WIRF), the research centre based at KEMH where Oscar was born.

After being delivered via cae-

sarean section at 35 weeks, Oscar spent five weeks in intensive care, where he had multiple drains put into his lungs and doctors sought a reason for his condition.

"Oscar was recovering so well that we came home after five weeks, but shortly after we rushed him back to hospital after he stopped breathing one night," Mrs Cheney said.

"We spent a further three weeks in Princess Margaret Hospital with Oscar having X-rays and tests to find the cause of his hydrops."

At six months of age Oscar was diagnosed with a very rare lung condition called lymphangiectasia and is now a UWA case study.

Visit [www.littleloveclub.com.au](http://www.littleloveclub.com.au).



Lauren Cheney and Oscar at the Little Love Club opening.



PMH volunteers Kath Gwilliam, Lorraine Salotti, Maurine Callard, Betty Cox, Pat Loh and Ann Solder celebrate the anniversary.

## PMH volunteers at milestone

PRINCESS Margaret Hospital volunteers celebrated their 40th anniversary last week. Volunteering at PMH started in 1929 when the women's Auxiliary was formed. The PMH Volunteers

group was formed in 1974 after a board member saw the opportunity to use workers from the Auxiliary in support roles in the hospital, starting in 1975. There are now more than 200 of them.

## Chocolate treats for tough times

FOR Jazaria Taylor (7) and Jarrell Reynolds (8) eating and making Easter eggs offers a small distraction from being sick.

Last Wednesday the cousins, along with other patients being treated at Princess Margaret Hospital, made chocolate and decorated wrappers and baskets as part of the Easter Treats and Craft funshop with Fremantle Chocolate.

PMH Foundation spokeswoman Janmarie Michie said while the workshop might seem like "just chocolate making", the benefits were far deeper.



Jazaria Reynolds (7) and Jarrell Taylor (8) with Stitches the Bear.

come back," Ms Michie said.

"Fremantle Chocolate also makes the workshop available to siblings, so it's great distraction therapy for the whole family."

Fremantle Chocolate general manager Andrew Wyers said he hoped the creative workshop would bring a bit of joy to children at PMH.

"We are thrilled to be working with PMH Foundation to help bring this wonderful workshop to life again, now in our fourth consecutive year," Mr Wyers said.

They loved bringing a smile to kids' faces, he said.

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